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**SENATE**

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**Proposed Bill No. SB 446 – AAC The Issuance of Bonds for a  
Southbound Entrance Ramp To Route 8 in Shelton  
Senator Dan Debicella Testimony  
February 24, 2009**

Good morning Chairmen DeFronzo and Guerrero, Ranking Members Boucher and Scribner, and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity today to testify in favor of Senate Bill 446.

Downtown Shelton is at the start of a renaissance, with new residential and commercial construction starting in old abandoned factories. Our downtown is a prime example of brownfields redevelopment, and how a former factory town can develop into a vibrant 21<sup>st</sup> century community.

However, with such success inevitably comes more traffic—and we are seeing the start of increased traffic on our main thoroughfares such as Howe Avenue and Bridgeport Avenue. Many people are seeking access to Route 8, which connects through to I-95 and the Merritt Parkway—and lower Fairfield County where many of our residents work.

However, downtown Shelton has only one entrance ramp to Route 8 on the northbound side at Exit 14. Those seeking to go southbound (where access to I-95 and the Merritt are) must travel an extra five minutes down Bridgeport Avenue to Exit 13. At best, this is extremely inconvenient for our residents. At worst, it is starting to exacerbate traffic problems by causing residents to travel on already busy local roads to access the highway. Traffic on Howe Avenue and Bridgeport Avenue is being made worse by the fact that there is no direct access to Route 8 south at Exit 14.

SB 446 would provide \$10 million in bonding for the design and construction of a southbound entrance ramp at Exit 14. I hope the committee will pass this concept onto the Finance Committee as it would be money well invested in economic development and alleviating traffic congestion in Shelton.